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DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI DI IPOH DALAM NEGERI PERAK DARUL RIDZUAN RAYUAN SIVIL NO.: AA-12ANCVC-2-03/2022

ANTARA

1. **ONG YEONG**

(No. K/P: 691126-08-5704)

LIM WEI CHET 2.

(No. K/P: 901104-07-5567)

... PERAYU-PERAYU

DAN

MANHATTAN MANAGEMENT SDN. BHD.

(No. Syarikat: 58179-U)

... RESPONDEN



DALAM MAHKAMAH SESYEN (1) DI IPOH DALAM NEGERI PERAK DARUL RIDZUAN **GUAMAN SIVIL NO.: AA-A52NCVC-210-12/2019**

ANTARA

ONG YEONG 1.

(No. K/P: 691126-08-5704)

2. **LIM WEI CHET**

(No. K/P: 901104-07-5567))

... PLAINTIF-PLAINTIF

DAN

1. MANHATTAN MANAGEMENT SDN. BHD.

(No. Syarikat: 58179-U)

NORHAYATI BINTI NGAH AHMAD 2.

(No. K/P: 680611-08-5464)

[Berniaga sebagai rakan kongsi di bawah nama dan gaya FARTISHA ENTERPRISE (IP0211095-M)]

3. MOHAMMAD IZZUL SHAFIQ BIN MAT JAAFOR

(No. K/P: 911014-01-5607)

[Berniaga sebagai rakan kongsi di bawah nama dan gaya FARTISHA ENTERPRISE

(IP0211095-M)]

... DEFENDAN-DEFENDAN



GROUNDS OF JUDGMENT

Background

There are two applications filed in this suit. In Enclosure 47, plaintiff

filed an application Under Order 14A, Order 33A rule 2 and/or Order 92

rule 4 Rules of Court 2012 for the determination of questions and issues

on plaintiffs' claim as follows;

a) Whether 1st defendant had delivered vacant possession via their

letter dated 3/1/2019;

Whether 1st defendant is a tenant holding over for premises No. 42 b)

and No. 42B;

Whether plaintiffs' mesne profit claim is inapplicable against 1st

defendant when plaintiffs' had unconditionally accepted the rental

paid by 2nd and 3rd defendant.

Plaintiffs in turn filed Enclosure 49. Plaintiffs are seeking to amend

their writ and Statement of Claim on the ground that they discovered new

development of facts.

As this court is of the view that both enclosures are inter related, it

was instructed for both enclosures to be heard together. Affidavits from

both parties were considered and the following orders were made;

Enclosure 47: - Allowed with costs RM4,000. Plaintiffs' claim dismissed

with costs.

Enclosure 49: - Dismissed with costs RM4,000.

Aggrieved, plaintiffs appealed to the High Court on both enclosure.

Findings on Enclosure 47;

Plaintiffs and 1st defendant entered into a tenancy agreement for a

two years period from 1/2/2017 to 31/1/2019 for the monthly rental of

RM8,050. In the agreement, 1st defendant is expressly allowed to sublet

the premises. Thus premise No. 42 and 42B were let out to Fartisha

Enterprise and Vapor Bro.

The principle tenancy agreement between plaintiffs and 1st

defendant ended on 31/1/2019. This is confirmed via 1st defendant letter

to plaintiffs dated 3/1/2019 and plaintiffs' reply letter dated 29/1/2019.

4

As for the sublet, the tenancy of 2nd and 3rd defendant which ended on 6/12/2018 was extended for two years to 31/12/2020 at the request of 2nd and 3rd defendant. The extension was made with plaintiffs' knowledge. Plaintiffs thereafter collected rental from 2nd and 3rd defendant without fail until the extension ended.

a) Whether 1st defendant had delivered vacant possession

The 1st defendant had written a letter dated 3/1/2019 to the plaintiffs to confirm that the principle tenancy ended on 31/1/2019. As for the tenancy of 2nd and 3rd defendant, it was extended because plaintiffs continue to collect rental from them until the extension ended. Thus the issue that arises is whether 1st defendant can hand over vacant possession when 2nd and 3rd defendant continue to occupy the end premises.

In order to resolve this issue, this court referred to the terms of the principle tenancy agreement. In clause 11(4), it is provided "... that the Tenant shall be absolutely entitled to assign or sub-let or part with the possession of the said Premises...". Thus, 1st defendant had acted within it powers to sub let the premises to 2nd and 3rd defendant. Thereafter when the principle tenancy agreement ended, plaintiffs

continued with the sub let arrangement with the 2nd and 3rd defendant.

This can be inferred from the conduct of the plaintiff in collecting the

rentals.

Clause 111(8) provides for the delivery of vacant possession.

The tenant must "... notify the Landlord in writing to the last known

address and Landlord must take possession and keys within fourteen

days from the date of notice."

It is also provided that "Possession and keys of the said

premises shall be deemed to have been taken... upon the expiry of

fourteen days."

As required by the above clause, 1st defendant wrote on

14/5/2019 to plaintiffs to take vacant possession and the keys of the

premises. However they did not take any action. Only after eight

months did the plaintiffs issued Notice of Demand to the defendants.

At the same time, plaintiffs continued to collect the rental payments.

b) Whether 1st defendant is a tenant holding over

Plaintiffs claimed for double rental as provided in Section 28(4)(a) of Civil Law Act 1956. In the case of Rohasassets Snd. Bhd. (formerly known as Wisma Perkasa Sdn Bhd) V Weatherford (M) Sdn Bhd & Anor [2020] 1 MLJ 557, the Federal Court observed that under Section 28(4)(a) of Civil Law Act, double rental is only chargeable "... if the Landlord has made his intention clear to the Tenant that he does not wish to renew the tenancy and will not allow the Tenant to hold over after the expiry of the tenancy." The Federal Court further stated that "... whether they were holding over with or without the Appellant's consent, express or implied by conduct." Appellant accepted the rental payments from the Respondent during negotiation and only after the negotiation failed that Appellant issued notice to guit. Hence, Appellant is not entitle to double rental.

Similarly, in this present case, although 1st defendant had written to plaintiff to collect the keys, plaintiffs did not respond. Instead plaintiffs continue to collect rental for premises No. 42 and 42B. Thus plaintiffs is now estopped from claiming double rental. Plaintiffs did not show intention either expressed or implied to terminate the tenancy. As for the 1st defendant, they had paid the full rental amount

of RM193,200 for the principle rental agreement. Thus, this court found that 1st defendant is not a tenant holding over.

c) Mesne profit claim

Plaintiffs claim mense profit against 1st defendant for the tenancy extension of 2nd and 3rd defendant. It is not disputed that plaintiffs have collected rentals from 1st defendant for the sum of RM193,200 for the principle tenancy agreement and from 2nd and 3rd defendant for the sum of RM58,200 for the extension of tenancy agreement.

As this court has pointed earlier, the tenancy of 1st defendant had ended and plaintiffs had accepted the termination of tenancy agreement between plaintiffs and 1st defendant. However, the tenancy of 2nd and 3rd defendant was extended. Based on these facts, this court found that plaintiffs' claim for mesne profit is an afterthought. At all relevant time, plaintiffs never took steps to take vacant possession of the premises, except for the notice of demand issued by their solicitors on 12/9/2019.

After filing this suit against defendants, plaintiffs continued to collect rentals from 2nd and 3rd defendant until December 2020.

Plaintiffs denied collecting the rentals and instead claimed that

defendants had unilaterally deposit monies into plaintiffs' account.

This court rejects plaintiffs' assertion. This defies logic.

plaintiffs are in control of their own account.

Hence, this court found that plaintiffs' claim for mesne profit is an

afterthought and of without basis.

Decision of Enclosure 47

Allowed with costs RM4,000. Plaintiffs' claim is dismissed.

Findings on Enclosure 49;

After 1st defendant made the application for the determination of

preliminary issued in Enclosure 47, plaintiffs filed this application to amend

their Writ and Statement of Claim. As this court has stated earlier, both

enclosures were heard together since they are inter related.

The principle of amendments of pleadings was laid down by in the

Federal Court in the landmark case of Yamaha Motor Co Ltd V Yamaha

(M) Sdn Bhd [1983] 1 MLJ 213. The basic questions for determination

are;

i) The application is bona fide;

ii) Whether prejudice suffered can compensated by costs;

iii) The amendment would not turn the suit from one character into

another.

From the background of this case as laid down by this court earlier, it

is crystal clear that plaintiff filed this application to defeat 1st defendant's

application in Enclosure 47. This court found plaintiffs' application lack

bona fide and will cause grave injustice to 1st defendant.

Furthermore, this court found that plaintiffs are trying to save their

pleadings when they are to be blamed for the weak and inconsistent claim.

This suit was filed carelessly and has caused prejudice against 1st

defendant which cannot be compensated by costs. 1st defendant has

taken all the necessary steps to fulfill their obligation in the principle

tenancy agreement.

10

Decision on Enclosure 49

Dismissed with costs RM4,000.

DATED: 16th MARCH 2022

(MEOR SULAIMAN BIN AHMAD TARMIZI)

JUDGE

CIVIL SESSIONS COURT

Solicitors:

On behalf of Plaintiffs : Messrs. Lim Tan & Co.

On behalf of 1st Defendant : Messrs. Selvam, Nanda & Partners

On behalf of 2nd Defendant : Messrs. Gibb & Co.